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Letter dated 13 December 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the extension of the detention of Aung San Suu Kyi issued by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on 10 December 2004 (see annex).

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dirk Jan **van den Berg**
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom
of the Netherlands to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 13 December 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement on the extension of the detention of Aung San Suu Kyi, issued on 10 December 2004 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

The European Union condemns the continued detention of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and regrets that although a small number of political prisoners have been released, a large number remain in detention.

The European Union recalls its earlier position in this matter that, in order to improve its relations with the European Union, the Government of Burma/Myanmar should take the following steps:

(a) The immediate release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all political prisoners;

(b) The participation of NLD and other democratic parties and all ethnic groups in the National Convention, the resumption of which has been announced for February 2005;

(c) The resumption of the National Convention with genuine and open debate for all participants.

The European Union continues to urge the Government of Burma/Myanmar to grant without further delay to the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Burma/Myanmar, Razali Ismail, and to the United Nations Special Rapporteur, Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, complete, free, unrestricted access to Burma/Myanmar.

The European Union welcomes the findings of the ASEAN parliamentarians on Burma/Myanmar in Kuala Lumpur of 28 November 2004 and encourages the Governments and parliamentarians of the ASEAN countries to keep monitoring the situation in Burma and to continue to work with the regime to promote democracy.

The candidate countries Bulgaria, Croatia,* Romania and Turkey, the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.

* Croatia continues to be part of the stabilization and association process.